

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (H.R. 1616), as amended, was passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, October 3; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Cissna nomination; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators Gillibrand and Blumenthal.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New York.

LAS VEGAS MASS SHOOTING

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the horrific mass murders last night. My heart is obviously with the victims and their families, and I thank all of our brave first responders who acted so quickly.

These senseless mass shootings must end. We cannot allow this to be the new normal, where tragedy after tragedy happens, and we do absolutely nothing to address it. It is not good enough to just send thoughts and prayers and extend our condolences when people are losing their lives to gun violence every day.

We still have to learn the details about what happened, but what we do know is this: This violence, this mass

murder, is one of the worst massacres we have ever seen in this country. It is yet another reminder of Congress' failure to act to protect Americans from gun violence. It is another disturbing and painful example of how Congress is too weak and too cowardly to stand up to the gun industry.

The news reports are saying that the gun was shooting in rapid-fire bursts, a military-style weapon specifically designed to kill as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time, a weapon of war.

We have to pass laws that protect the American people from this kind of horrific violence. It should not be legal for a civilian on American soil to own and use a weapon of war like an assault weapon. Our military is highly trained to use such weapons. It should not be easy for any person to buy a suppressor—known by many people as a silencer—to attach to their guns, which makes it harder for police to do their jobs and catch violent criminals.

The people of Nevada voted in November to require background checks on all weapons, but the politicians in that State are refusing to implement the will of the people. The violence in Las Vegas is only the latest tragedy like this. Mass shootings get all the news, but every single day in my home State, gun violence on a much smaller scale is destroying more and more lives.

We really need to act. We must take gun violence as seriously as we take the threat of terrorism, wherever it is happening.

We will get to the facts and the bottom of this. And when we do, let's honor the lives of those we have lost by doing something about it, doing everything we can to make sure this never happens again.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, we have been here before. We have been here in the wake of Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, Orlando, numerous other mass shootings, and now Las Vegas.

We can all agree that our hearts and prayers, mourning and condolences go out to the families of loved ones who have suffered this senseless, horrific violence. We can also agree that many of the details are unknown about the shooter, and a lot of investigation will be done. We can all agree that Las Vegas was struck by evil; call it pure evil.

We know what it looks like in Connecticut because we saw it firsthand in

Newtown. We lived through the heart-breaking, unspeakable violence of that day, just a few years ago, when evil visited Newtown and caused the death of 26 beautiful human beings, including 20 children. America came together in support of us in Connecticut, and today we should come together in support of the people of Nevada.

My heart and prayers are with them, but thoughts and prayers are not enough. We know the evil that visited Connecticut also brought forth good in other people—in the first responders, the doctors, and countless members of the community and people of America who united.

I will never forget that day in Newtown when the community came together in St. Rose of Lima Church for an evening of mourning. I said then that the whole world was watching. Indeed, what the world saw was courage and resilience of truly heroic proportions—some of the good along with the evil.

When I saw those images today in Las Vegas—the sound of that gunfire, the pandemonium, the reports of injuries and deaths—it brought back to me that day in Newtown. I was not there for the shooting, as I had gone later in the day, but the memories of that day and of the successive days, weeks, and years had been brought back. My heart broke, but my stomach also churned with anger. I was frustrated and furious.

I am now furious because Congress has failed to act. Nothing has changed since Newtown. Congress has been complicit when we have had numerous opportunities and many reasons to make America safer and adopt commonsense measures that 90 percent of Americans support. So thoughts and prayers are not enough. Hand-wringing and soul-searching is needed, but it is insufficient. What is needed now is action.

I am under no illusions. Nobody needs to tell me where the votes are at this moment. We need to be realistic about what the agenda is in our going forward. We need to be very clear-eyed and realistic, but we also need to recognize that we can win this fight. Between the time that Ronald Reagan had almost been assassinated and the day that the Brady bill had passed, it had been almost 10 years. We need to be in this fight as a marathon, not as a sprint, and that is the determination and resolve that must be brought to this effort.

It was 5 years ago when a man wielding a semiautomatic rifle murdered 20 children and 6 adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. The cries of grief echoed around this country, and there was a moment when action could have been taken. We need to seize this moment. Then, the vote, shamefully, failed to reach 60 for commonsense measures, like background checks. We needed 60, and we had a majority, and our colleagues in the House of Representatives told us that that measure would have passed there.

Since then, every day in this country an average of 92 Americans die due to gun violence, which is 33,000 Americans every year, and 59 is the death toll as of this moment in Las Vegas. Day after

day, 92 Americans are killed as a result of gun violence, and 60 of them are suicides, but that is no less a death, and it is a preventable death if there are commonsense measures that will stop this carnage.

I would be happy never to speak about this topic, never to complain again about Congress's complicity, but our hearts break, and our stomachs churn with fury. America's should as well. After Newtown, Aurora, Blacksburg, Charleston, Chattanooga, Lafayette, San Bernardino, Orlando, and, now, Las Vegas, these cities have become synonymous with mass shootings—unjustly tarnished. What is needed is national resolve.

For anyone who says that we should only mourn or offer condolences, let me just say, very simply: Let us honor those victims and keep faith with their memories, so that their lives and losses will not be in vain, by taking action that makes America safer. Let us redouble our determination. The bills are ready to go, the agenda is set, and the action is clear. Let us honor their memories through action. If the President believes this carnage was pure evil, let him lead—if not today, tomorrow, and if not tomorrow, Wednesday, when he visits Las Vegas. If these actions were pure evil, let us all lead by our example, and let us move forward to stop this carnage in the future. We grieve these losses, but we need to recognize that the measures now before Congress are a travesty and a dishonor to those lives that were lost.

One of these proposals is an innocuous-sounding Hearing Protection Act—let me repeat: the Hearing Protection Act—which could come to a vote as early as this week in the House of Representatives. This measure would gut regulations on gun silencers.

Now, let's be very clear. Silencers are already widely available to hundreds of sportsmen who pay the fee, register, and wait for a short period. This legislation would make it terrifyingly easy to buy a gun silencer. Hunters and recreational shooters deserve to have silencers but only if they comply with those regulations. This measure would pose an unacceptable risk to public safety and make it more difficult for law enforcement, especially in urban areas, to identify gunshots, locate shooters, and protect civilians.

In one interview after another of the victims of last night's shooting, there was a common refrain: They ran, and they escaped because they heard those gunshots. The only supposed reform measure before the Congress right now that has been given a chance of passage is a proposal to make it easier to buy gun silencers. The only thing that led those individuals to escape—or one of the only things—was, in fact, the sound of gunshots. How many lives would have been taken last night if the shooter had had a silencer?

Another proposal is the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, which would essentially eliminate the States' ability to regulate concealed-carry permits in their States, undermining the laws that States like Connecticut have put in place to keep our residents safe.

In the wake of Newtown, Charleston, Orlando, and, now, Las Vegas, Members

of Congress should come together to protect our lives from these senseless killings. It is not about Republicans or Democrats. It is not about politics. It is not even about policy. It is about public safety, simply. We should not be undermining protection. What a travesty and tragedy and what a dishonor to the memories of those victims in Las Vegas to now be on the verge of weakening rather than strengthening our public safety laws.

Let's join hands across the aisle and across both Houses to stand up to the gun lobby, the NRA, and other special interests and release and break their grip on Congress. More than thoughts and prayers are necessary, although they fulfill a vitally important function. Talk must be turned into action. Waiting simply means more deaths, and delay means time. Time is not on our side with there being 92 deaths, on average, every day as a result of gun violence.

Let us join together and combat evil. Certainly, it was there in Las Vegas, but it will visit other communities, as it does every day. Those 92 deaths and mass shootings will continue unless commonsense, sensible measures, like a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, are adopted, as well as there being mandatory background checks for all gun sales. Until this is adopted, America will be more at risk. We must make America safer, and that is an obligation that we share across the aisle and across the two bodies of Congress.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:31 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 3, 2017, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

GREGORY E. MAGGS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED FORCES FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS TO EXPIRE ON THE DATE PRESCRIBED BY LAW, VICE CHARLES E. ERDMANN, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIANA FURCHTGOFF-ROTH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION. (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NAZAKHAT NIKAKHTAR, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE MARCUS DWAYNE JADOTTE, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

DENNIS M. DEVANEY, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 16, 2023, VICE IRVING A. WILLIAMSON, TERM EXPIRED.

RANDOLPH J. STAYIN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 16, 2026, VICE MEREDITH M. BROADBENT, TERM EXPIRED.

THE JUDICIARY

BARRY W. ASHE, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA, VICE L. R. LEMELLE, RETIRED.

DANIEL DESMOND DOMENICO, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO, VICE ROBERT E. BLACKBURN, RETIRED.

STUART KYLE DUNCAN, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT, VICE W. EUGENE DAVIS, RETIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PAUL J. LACAMERA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. TWANDA E. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROGER D. MURDOCK

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

JULIE P. AKEY, OF VIRGINIA
DULCE M. AYOUBI-ACOSTA, OF VIRGINIA
HENRY N. BAKER, JR., OF KENTUCKY
JEFFREY S. BARRUS, OF UTAH
BENJAMIN J. BAUGHMAN, OF TEXAS
SARAH M. BELOUSOV, OF FLORIDA
STRAUN W. BOSTON, OF CALIFORNIA
SHANNON M. BRINK, OF COLORADO
ANTHONY C. BROSNAN, OF MISSOURI
TUCKER A. BROWN, OF TEXAS
JOEL BURGER, OF PENNSYLVANIA
THOMAS G. CECIL, OF FLORIDA
MOLLY MCCABE CHINCHILLA, OF ALASKA
VINCENT G. CILLI, OF FLORIDA
EVA COFFEY, OF TEXAS
ADAM R. COLVIN, OF ALABAMA
SYDNEY A. CROSS, OF MISSOURI
STACI RAAB DAWSON, OF VIRGINIA
CRAIG A. DENNISON, OF IOWA
RISHI PRAFUL HAYWAR DESAI, OF WEST VIRGINIA
COLIN J. DONOVAN, OF WISCONSIN
KATRINA N. DRAYTON, OF MICHIGAN
EDWARD A. EICHLER, OF MAINE
ELIZABETH LAUREEN EVANS, OF VIRGINIA
MANDY Z. FEUERBACHER, OF CALIFORNIA
ERIC K. FONG, OF CALIFORNIA
DARIN FOSTER, OF TEXAS
MARINA O. GALKINA, OF FLORIDA
DANIELA GARRETTON, OF CALIFORNIA
JONAS B. GIL, OF NEVADA
PHILLIP M. GUTHRIE, OF TEXAS
RUSSELL C. HEADLEE, OF NEBRASKA
TODD A. JURKOWSKI, OF FLORIDA
NICHOLAS A. KLINGER, OF FLORIDA
FAITH E. KROEKER-MAUS, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
ABRAHAM YISUNG LEE, OF MARYLAND
RUBY V. MARCELO, OF MARYLAND
COURTNEY M. MAZZONE, OF NEW YORK
TIMOTHY S. MCNALLY, OF ILLINOIS
CHRISTOPHER I. MERRIMAN, OF VIRGINIA
BRIAN C. PHELPS, OF FLORIDA
RICHARD E. PINKHAM II, OF OHIO
CHRISTOPHER J. PISTULKA, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
JAMISON F. PIXLEY, OF MASSACHUSETTS
CALEB D. PORTNOY, OF MASSACHUSETTS
RYAN M. REYNOLDS, OF UTAH
ROYAL S. RIPLEY, OF FLORIDA
LEAH J. SEVERINO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
AMELIA R. SHAW, OF NEW YORK
CRYSTAL DAWN SHERIDAN, OF TEXAS
GENEVIEVE C. SIEBENGARTNER, OF OREGON
NICHOLAS S. SIEGEL, OF VIRGINIA
HELEN ELISABETH SOCOLOW, OF NEW YORK
SARAH R. STEPHENS, OF OKLAHOMA
SCOTT C. TUTTLE, OF NEW YORK
MERRY M. WALKER, OF WASHINGTON
JESSICA ELLEN WARDER, OF FLORIDA
MICHAEL Y. WARDER, OF FLORIDA
MICHELLE KRISTINE WARREN, OF NEW JERSEY
JOSEPH N. YACKLEY, OF ILLINOIS
VERA N. ZDRAVKOVA, OF IDAHO

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate October 2, 2017:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

AJIT VARADARAJ PAI, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2016.